

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 5, 6 and 8 and amended claims 1-4, 7 and 14-19 are in this application.

At paragraph 2 of the outstanding Office Action of September 5, 2003, the Examiner objected to the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner stated that figure 28 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Applicants submit that figure 28 has been designated as Prior Art and is attached at the end of this amendment as a "Replacement Sheet." Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action of September 5, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,019). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part, "A digital signal conversion method...**extracting a predetermined subset** of orthogonal transform coefficients generated after orthogonally transforming respective blocks...**forming a new coupled block by connecting adjacent blocks represented by said extracted partial orthogonal transform coefficients...**" (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the reference relied upon by the Examiner does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 1.

Kim teaches changing the number of samples in a coded signal by directly mapping original transform coefficients (pre-computed and pre-stored in memory) in the coded signal to new transform coefficients (column 1, lines 5-15) and Kim does teach transforming the resolution of an image from a first image resolution to a second image resolution using operations in the frequency domain (column 3, lines 3-16). However, Kim does not teach or suggest extracting a predetermined subset of orthogonal transform coefficients generated after orthogonally transforming respective blocks of a digital signal of a first format and then producing partial coefficients representing each of said respective blocks. Further, Kim does not teach or suggest reforming the block images by carrying out inverse DCT processing, combining these newly formed blocks to form a coupled new block, and then carrying out DCT processing to the coupled new block to generate new orthogonal transform coefficients, as does amended independent claim 1. In contrast, Kim maps or correlates the spatial pixels in the picture before and after the resolution conversion, which translates into a correlation between the DCT coefficients at different resolutions (column 4, lines 10-15). The process and apparatus of the claimed present invention does not rely on correlating or comparing values in the time domain before and after the resolution conversion. Instead, amended independent claim 1 describes a video signal that can be converted to a video signal of a format of different resolution by thinning out the number of orthogonal transform coefficients per predetermined subset. Therefore amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, amended independent claims 14 and 18 are also believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

Furthermore, applicants submit that claim 15 depends from amended independent claims 14, and is therefore distinguishable for this reason alone.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 6 of the outstanding Office Action of September 5, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,019). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 are either directly or indirectly dependent from amended independent claims 1, 14 and 18 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Kim for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 are believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

Furthermore, the Examiner does not cite a reference that discloses “reducing low frequency DCT coefficients” or “DCT coefficients constituting line of odd and even fields” or “a compressed video signal having a resolution of 720x480 or 360x240, and a ratio of sampling frequency of color difference and luminance signal to be equal to 4:1:1 or 4:2:0.” Instead, the Examiner appears to assert that such feature of claim 1 would have been obvious. In this regard, reference is made to In re Pardo and Landau, (214 USPQ 673) in which the Court states at page 677:

“Assertions of technical facts in areas of esoteric technology must always be supported by citation to some reference work recognized as standard in the pertinent art and the

applicant given, in the Patent Office, the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the assertion or the notoriety or repute of the cited reference”.

In view of In re Pardo and Landau, it is believed to be improper for the Examiner to fail to cite a reference, which specifically describes the above-mentioned feature of claim 1.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8, 9 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

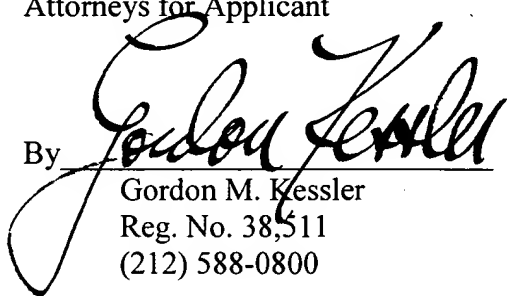
It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is a basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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